GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5540
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
PROGRAMME TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CROPS IN BIHAR
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any programme to increase the production of Magahi betel, lotus seed, banana and Ntchis and also to promote their research and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for exporting these products; and

(d) the details of other products for promotion for which assistance is provided by the Union Government to Bihar?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Macro-Management in Agricultureâ€"Supplementation/Complementation of States` Effort through Work Plan` including a programme for area expansion of crops. Magahi betel, lotus seed, banana and iitchie are afso included in this scheme. To promote research, the National Research Centre for Litchi, Magahi Betel and Banana have been established in the States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). For lotus seed there is no research centre.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance for the export of horticulture commodities. Besides, Agri-export Zone for Litchi and vegetables has been established particularly for the export of those commodities.

(d) Government assistance is also provided for promotion of production of other crops like Guava, Mango, Pineapple, Medicinal & Aromatic plants, floriculture and spices under the scheme Macro-Management in Agriculture.